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FOR FERNANDEZ FROM CLAUSSEN

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SUBJECT: "ATLANTIC NEWS" REPORT ON MBFR

1. FOLLOWING TEXT APPEARED IN "ATLANTIC NEWS" DATED
21 APRIL 1978. BEGIN TEXT:

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THE 25TH CENTO MINISTERIAL MEETING REQUESTS WITH-
DRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS FROM THE HORN OF AFRICA
(A.N.-N.A.)

1. AT THE 25TH ANNUAL MINISTERIAL CENTO MEETING
(CENTRAL TREATY ORGANISATION), WHICH STARTED ON
WEDNESDAY IN LONDON, THE FIVE MEMBER COUNTRIES HAVE
INSISTED ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL SOVIET AND CUBAN
FORCES FROM THE HORN OF AFRICA.

2. IN THEIR INAUGURAL SPEECHES AT THE MINISTERIAL
COUNCIL OF THE ECONOMIC AND DEFENCE ALLIANCE,
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WHICH FOR 23 YEARS HAS INCLUDED THE UNITED STATES
(ASSOCIATE MEMBER), GREAT BRITAIN, TURKEY, IRAN AND
PAKISTAN - THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS STRESSED
THE DANGER WHICH THIS PRESENCE REPRESENTS FOR THE
SAFETY AND STABILITY OF THE REGION.

3. THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. CYRUS VANCE,

CATEGORICALLY SAID THAT HE IS IN FAVOUR OF WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS FROM ETHIOPIA AND OF A "PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT IN ERITREA". ON THIS, HE ADDED THAT THE UNITED STATES FIRMLY SUPPORTS THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ALL THE STATES IN THIS REGION, PARTICULARLY ETHIOPIA, DJIBOUTI, SOMALIA AND KENYA".

4. IRAN'S MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. ABBAS ALI KHALATBARY, FOR HIS PART DESCRIBED THE WAR BY USE OF SURROGATES IN THIS REGION AS "DEEPLY WORRYING".

5. TOUCHING ON THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, THE OTHER MAIN THEME OF DISCUSSIONS, SEVERAL MINISTERS DEMANDED ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL "ON ALL THE FRONTS OF TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967" ACCORDING TO MR. VANCE'S EXPRESSION AND ADVOCATED THE RECOGNITIONS OF LEGITIMATE RIGHTS FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

6. THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM PAKISTAN AND TURKEY, MESSRS. AGHA SHAHI AND GUNDUZ OKCUN, CONDEMNED IN PARTICULARLY STRONG TERMS THE RECENT ISRAELI "AGGRESSION" IN THE SOUTH OF THE LEBANON AND DEMANDED IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI TROOPS.

7. AS REGARDS THE SITUATION IN THE PERSIAN GULF, MR. VANCE, WHO STRESSED THE STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPORTANCE OF THIS REGION, ASKED IRAN AND PAKISTAN TO "CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE STABILITY OF THIS ZONE". FOR HIS PART, MR. KHALATBARY, WHILST STRESSING THAT THE SECURITY OF THE GULF AND THE INDIAN OCEAN MUST BE ENSURED BY BORDERING STATES, WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM THE LARGE POWERS, NOTED THE "DIRECT AND INDIRECT SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES" THREATENING THIS SECURITY.

8. THE MINISTERS AND THEIR ADVISORS THEN HELD A RESTRICTED SESSION TO EXAMINE THE MILITARY, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE (CENTO) ALLIANCE, AND ALSO THE EVENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. WE WOULD RECALL THAT MR. VANCE AND HIS BRITISH COUNTERPART, DR. OWEN RECENTLY COMPLETED A TOUR OF THIS REGION BEFORE THE CENTO MEETING. END TEXT. CLAUSSEN

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